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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,554	12/22/2004	Lars Ssim Madsen	2815-0287PUS1	8395
2292	7590	12/07/2006		EXAMINER
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			STOCKTON, LAURA LYNNE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1626	

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/518,554	MADSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.	1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2006 and 27 October 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 29-32, 37 and 41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 29-32, 37 and 41 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 29-32, 37 and 41 are pending in the application.

Rejections and objections made in the previous Office Action that do not appear below have been overcome by Applicant's amendments to the claims. Therefore, arguments pertaining to these rejections and objections will not be addressed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 29-32, 37 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olesen et al.

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{EP 477,819} and in view of the teachings in Olesen et al. {EP 617,023}.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP

S2141.01)

Applicant claims benzimidazolone compounds. Olesen et al. '819 (column 1; formula I in column 2; column 5; and especially Examples 10 and 14 in columns 15 and 16, respectively) teach benzimidazolone compounds that are structurally similar to the instant claimed compounds. Olesen et al. '023 teach similar compounds to Olesen et al. '819 and additional pharmaceutical formulations (the formula in column 2; the methods in column 3; and the compositions in columns 6-9).

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims

(MPEP S2141.02)

The difference between the compounds of Olesen et al. '819 and the compounds instantly claimed is that the instant claimed compounds are generically described in the prior art.

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**Finding of prima facie obviousness--rational and motivation (MPEP
§2142-2413)**

The indiscriminate selection of "some" among "many" is *prima facie* obvious, In re Lemin, 141 USPQ 814 (1964). The motivation to make the claimed compounds derives from the expectation that structurally similar compounds would possess similar activity (e.g., K⁺ channel openers).

One skilled in the art would thus be motivated to prepare products embraced by Olesen et al. '819, and especially in view of the teachings in Olesen et al. '023, to arrive at the instant claimed products with the expectation of obtaining additional beneficial products which would be useful in treating diseases which can be treated by opening cell membrane potassium channels in mammals such as hypertension, asthma, ischemia, convulsions, etc. The instant claimed invention would have been suggested to one skilled in the art and therefore, the instant claimed invention would have been obvious to one skilled in the art.

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 26, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that in a comparison between Example 10 in Olesen et al. '819 and the instant claimed compound of Claim 29, the instant claimed compound of Claim 29 provides an unexpectedly higher level of activity over Example 10 in Olesen et al. '819.

In response, the showing has been considered but has not been found persuasive since: (1) the showing was not presented in a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132; and (2) it is not clear from Exhibit A that the same tests disclosed in the instant specification were performed. As stated in the previous Office Action, the showing in the specification on pages 14-19 has been considered but has not been found persuasive because Applicants did not compare the closest prior art compounds. Example 10 and Example 14 in EP 477,819 are closer structurally {5-fluoro in the prior art

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verses 5-chloro of instant Example 1 found on page 13 of the instant specification} than the Reference compound used in the comparative study, which has a 5-trifluoromethyl group on the benzimidazolone ring. Applicant relying upon comparative showing to rebut *prima facie* case must compare his claimed invention with the closest prior art. In re Holladay, 199 USPQ 516, 1978. The rejection is deemed proper and therefore, maintained.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first

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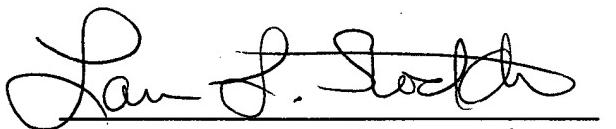
reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (571) 272-0710. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:15 am to 2:45 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (571) 272-0699.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

The Official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.



Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626, Group 1620
Technology Center 1600

December 5, 2006